OIPE JC18
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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that this application contains claims directed to the following three patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: (1) Figs. 1-6, 8-10B and 12; (2) Fig. 7; and (3) Fig. 11. The Examiner considers claims 10 and 15-17 to be generic. According to the Examiner, Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits and to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

In response, Applicants elect the species disclosed via Figs. 1-6, 8-10B and 12, and state that claims 10-19 read on the elected species.

Conclusion

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is requested. If, upon review, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any outstanding issues and advance the prosecution of the case.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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